

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Item of footwear, which is intended for sporting use, comprising:

— a first rigid shell which defines a body which is intended to receive a foot of a user and which extends in an extension direction, said first rigid shell including an area defining a housing on one lateral side of said body,

— a second rigid shell which defines an upper which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction,

— an articulation which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing the upper to rotate relative to the body in a transverse direction which is substantially perpendicular to the extension direction and the upright direction, in order to allow flexion of the foot of the user,

— a stop limiter that limits the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction within a maximum rotation range, said stop limiter comprising:

• a first stop limiter comprising a first flexion element which is connected to a front of the body and a second flexion element which is connected to a front of the upper, one coming

into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in a flexion rotation direction,

- a second stop limiter comprising a first extension element which is connected to a rear of the body and a second extension element which is connected to a rear of the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in an extension rotation direction counter to the flexion rotation direction,

- damping means having an inactive state when the upper and the body move relative to each other within a normal rotation range, which is not zero and which is strictly included within the maximum rotation range, so that the damping means are active only when the upper and the body move relative to each other between the normal rotation range and the maximum rotation range, said damping means comprising:

- a flexible plate which has a first end which is connected to the upper and a second end which moves freely within the normal rotation range and which comes into abutment with the housing of the boot between the normal rotation range and the maximum rotation range to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second flexion elements, and

- to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second extension elements,

said item of footwear being configured so that the maximum rotation range in the transverse direction extends over from 50 degrees to 70 degrees and the normal rotation range in the transverse direction extends over from 30 degrees to 50 degrees and is substantially centred relative to the maximum rotation range.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) Item of footwear according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the flexible plate is connected to said upper near the articulation.

4. (previously presented) Item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein the flexible plate has a curved portion which extends around the articulation.

5. (currently amended) Item of footwear, which is intended for sporting use, comprising:

- a first rigid shell which defines a body which is intended to receive a foot of a user and which extends in an extension direction,

- a second rigid shell which defines an upper which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction,
- an articulation which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing the upper to rotate relative to the body in a transverse direction which is substantially perpendicular to the extension direction and the upright direction, in order to allow flexion of the foot of the user,
- a stop limiter that limits the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction within a maximum rotation range, said stop limiter comprising:
 - a first stop limiter comprising a first flexion element which is connected to a front of the body and a second flexion element which is connected to a front of the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in a flexion rotation direction,
 - a second stop limiter comprising a first extension element which is connected to a rear of the body and a second extension element which is connected to a rear of the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in an extension rotation direction counter to the flexion rotation direction,

— damping means having an inactive state when the upper and the body move relative to each other within a normal rotation range, which is not zero and which is strictly included within the maximum rotation range, so that the damping means are active only when the upper and the body move relative to each other between the normal rotation range and the maximum rotation range, said damping means comprising:

- two flexible plates which each have a first end which is connected to the upper and a second end which moves freely within the normal rotation range and which comes into abutment with the boot between the normal rotation range and the maximum rotation range to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second flexion elements, and to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second extension elements,

said item of footwear being configured so that the maximum rotation range in the transverse direction extends over from 50 degrees to 70 degrees and the normal rotation range in the transverse direction extends over from 30 degrees to 50 degrees and is substantially centred relative to the maximum rotation range

wherein said two flexible plates are arranged symmetrically relative to a centre plane (P) which is defined by the extension direction and the upright direction, said two

flexible plates being connected to each other at a respective said first end.

6. (previously presented) Item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein the flexible plate is active over a rotation range in the transverse direction of from 5 to 20 degrees.

7. (previously presented) Item of footwear according to claim 3, wherein the flexible plate has a curved portion which extends around the articulation.

8. (currently amended) An item of footwear, which is intended for sporting use, comprising:

a first rigid shell which defines a body which is intended to receive a foot of a user and which extends in an extension direction,

a second rigid shell which defines an upper which is intended to receive the leg of the user and which extends substantially in an upright direction,

an articulation which connects the body and the upper, said articulation allowing the upper to rotate relative to the body in a transverse direction which is substantially perpendicular to the extension direction and the upright direction, in order to allow flexion of the foot of the user,

a first stop limiter comprising a first flexion element which is connected to a front of the body and a second flexion element which is connected to a front of the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in a flexion rotation direction,

a second stop limiter comprising a first extension element which is connected to a rear of the body and a second extension element which is connected to a rear of the upper, one coming into contact with the other in order to limit the rotation of the upper relative to the body in the transverse direction in an extension rotation direction counter to the flexion rotation direction,

a one-piece removable damping element having first and second free ends and an intermediate portion between said first and second free ends, said intermediate portion being connected to said upper and including said second extension element, each of said first and second free ends comprising a flexible plate which moves freely within a normal rotation range and which comes into abutment with the boot between the normal rotation range and a maximum rotation range to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second flexion elements and to produce a force in the transverse direction opposing the moving together of the first and second extension elements.